Functioning of Regional Provident Fund Commissioners

1341. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the functioning of each of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioners in order to improve the service to PF subscribers and if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) whether Government have received any complaints/reports about their non-performance in the disposal of annual statement of accounts of PF subscribers and if so, the details thereof, and the action taken thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to improve the functioning of Regional Provident Fund Commissioners in the light of the introduction of new Pension Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The functioning of the offices of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioners is reviewed by the Central Office of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation every year and deficiencies wherever observed, are brought to the notice of the concerned Regional Commissioner for rectification/improvement.

(b) and (c) There have been complaints of general nature regarding delay in issue of annual statement of accounts. In order to provide prompt service to the E.P.F subscribers and streamlining the accounting procedure, a massive computerisation programme has been launched in the EPF Organisation. A Central action plan covering substantial areas of work has also been initiated for improving the system's efficiency and effectiveness. Regional Provident Fund Commissioners have also been provided an orientation training for ensuring effective implementation of the Pension Scheme.

Pension Scheme for Labourers

1342. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 107 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th November, 1995 and state:

(a) the number of discussions held between Government and representatives of trade unions on the pension scheme launched for the benefit of labour employees;

(b) what are the details of each meeting held and views expressed by trade unions on the scheme;

(c) what steps Government have taken to resolve the difference, if any, on the issue;

(d) whether any concrete proposals have been received about the scheme from other sources; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (e) The Employees' Pension Scheme 1995 has been evolved by the Central Board of Trustees on which, besides others, Central Trade Union Organisations are also represented. Even after the Scheme was recommended by the Central Board of Trustees, a wider consultation with the Central Trade Union Organisations has taken place twice on 10.11.95 and 25.11.95 This is apart from two discussions with Central Board of Trustees of Employees Provident Fund Organisations in which Central Trade Unions also are represented. All the Central Trade Union Organisations except CITU and UTUC (LS) have generally supported the Pension Scheme with some suggestions for making improvements. These suggestions would be examined with a view to finding out if it would be possible to make any improvement in the Scheme without affecting its economic sustainability. Besides other suggestions CITU has suggested that pension should be given as

a third benefit and that membership of the Scheme should be made optional. As pension and Central Provident Fund are considered mutually exclusive, it is not possible to give pension as a third benefit. It would also not be possible to make the membership of the Scheme optional as in the event of it being made optional, acturial calculations will just not be feasible because there would be no definiteness about contribution to the Scheme which is necessary in every contributory Scheme. The Scheme however, provides for exemption of establishments if they have their own comparable or superior Pension Schemes.

Steps to Resolve Bilateral Trade Issues

1343. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken by Government to resolve the outstanding bilateral trade issues;

(b) if so, the steps taken to reserve the bilateral trade issues between India and Russia; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Bilateral trade issues between India & Russia are being discussed regularly and steps are being taken to resolve problems. A comprehensive review of such issues was conducted during the visit of the Minister of State for Commerce to Moscow in September, '95. Subsequently, the entire gamut of trade issues was discussed in the second meeting of the Indo-Russian Working Group on Trade & Economic Cooperation held in New Delhi from Oct. 5—9, 1995.

The bilateral trade during the period April-September '95 has reached a level of Rs. 2945 cr. as against the Figure of Rs. 1602 cr. during the same period in the preceding year, registering a growth of 84%.

Depositing the Amount of EPF by Ranbaxy

1344. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether deduction of subscription of Employees Provident Fund is made regularly by the Drug Company, Ranbaxy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount deposited with Provident Fund Commissioner during the last three years;

(c) the amount which has yet to be deposited and the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(d) the action taken against the company for not depositing the amount in time?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s. Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd. has its own Provident Fund Trust in which the amount of EPF Contributions are being deposited. However, the employer is regularly depositing the amount of Family Pension contribution, EPF Inspection charges and EDLI inspection charges with the RPFC, Delhi. Deposits made during the last three years are as under:—

1992-93	Rs.13,76,388/-
1993-94	Rs.17,76,097/-
1994-95	Rs.20,06,975/-

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Problem of Women Labour

1345. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any specific scheme to resolve the problem of women labour particularly in Industrial, Agricultural and Super Bazar sector;

(b) if so, what are the complete details